

## Two Decatur youths die in crash near Willshire; Five others are injured

Two Decatur youths were killed and five other youths seriously injured when a car with five Decatur teenagers collided head-on with another vehicle on U.S. about one-half mile east of Willshire, O., at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Dead at the scene was Daniel Rickord, 18, of 716 Walnut street. Rickord received a skull fracture and broken neck, according to Van Wert county authorities.

John Theodore Velez, 17, of 503 N. 12th street, died at 3:15 a.m. Sunday in Parkview memorial hospital in Fort Wayne. Velez suffered a leg fracture and possible internal injuries.

Rickord's brother, Steven, 15, has a head injury and is listed in critical condition at St. Joseph's hospital in Fort Wayne.

Leon Morgan, 17, of route 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Morgan, is suffering from multiple fractures and facial lacerations and was admitted to the Lutheran hospital in Fort Wayne. He is listed in poor condition.

A third Rickord, a cousin, William Scott Rickord, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rickord, was admitted to the Adams county memorial hospital where he suffered from shock and multiple bruises. It is believed that he will be dismissed sometime today.

Also admitted to the Adams county hospital with less serious injuries were the driver of the second car, Van. J. Riley, 18, of route 1, Willshire, and a passenger, Barry Dellinger, 18, of Willshire.

Ohio patrolmen said Rickord and the driver of the second car, Riley, were seen on a Willshire street and later drove east on U.S. 33 for about two miles.

Witnesses said they turned around and headed back toward each other, both driving in the center of the highway. Police said evidence indicated at least one of the cars was left of center.

### Rickord Rites Tuesday

Daniel T. Rickord was born in Allen county Dec. 19, 1947, a son of John H and Eileen Smith-Rickord, but had resided in Decatur most of his life. He was a 1966 graduate of the Decatur Catholic high school, and was employed by the B. F. Goodrich Co. in Fort Wayne.

The accident victim was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church and the Holy Name society.

Surviving in addition to the parents are four brothers, Steven, John, Bernard and Edward Rickord, all at home; seven sisters, Mrs. Margaret Pogue, Mary Lou, Janet, Kathleen, JoAnne, Nancy and Rose Marie, all of Decatur; the maternal grandmother, Mrs. I.A. Smith of Coer-d-Alene, Ida., and the maternal grandfather, J.F. Smith.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mary's Catholic church, with a cousin, Rev. John Strebis, officiating. Burial will be in the Catholic cemetery. Friends may call at the Gillig-Doan & Sefton funeral home until time of the services. The rosary will be recited at 7:30 o'clock this evening. Pallbearers will be Jack Zehr Jr., Bill Hain, Bill Tricker, Dan Hake, David Pierce and Dave Hitchcock. <snip>